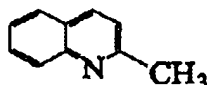


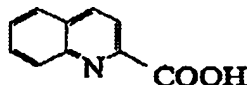
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Amendments to the Claims:

- 10 1. (Currently Amended) A process for the microbial oxidation of the
compound of Formula II



to the compound of Formula I



- 15 which comprises:

contacting said compound of Formula II with a microorganism capable of
accomplishing the oxidation of the methyl group of the compound of Formula II to the
carboxyl group of the compound of Formula I, and

- 20 incubating the resultant mixture ~~under suitable conditions~~ to yield an amount of the
compound of Formula I.

2. (Currently Amended) The process as defined in claim 1 wherein said
microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC
No. 9244, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 8688a, *Cunninghamella echinulata*
ATCC No. 26269, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 8983, *Cunninghamella*
25 *echinulata* ATCC No. 10028b, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 9245,
Cunninghamella echinulata ATCC No. 36112, *Cunninghamella homothallica* ATCC No.
16161, *Alternaria solani* ATCC No. 11078, *Penicillium glabrum* ATCC No. 11080,
Diplodia gossypina ATCC No. 20575, *Absidia repens* ATCC No. 14849, *Absidia repens*
ATCC No. 74481, *Aspergillus tamarii* ATCC No. 16865, and *Glomerella lagenaria* ATCC
30 No. 14724; ~~and suitable mutants thereof.~~

3.(Currently Amended) The process as defined in claim 2 wherein said microorganism
is selected from the group consisting of *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 9244,
Cunninghamella echinulata ATCC No. 8688a, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 26269,
Cunninghamella echinulata ATCC No. 8983, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No.
10028b, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC No. 9245, *Cunninghamella echinulata* ATCC
No. 36112, *Cunninghamella homothallica* ATCC No. 16161, *Alternaria solani* ATCC No.
11078, *Penicillium glabrum* ATCC No. 11080, and *Diplodia gossypina* ATCC No. 20575;
~~and suitable mutants thereof.~~

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4.-18. (Cancelled)

~~4 18.~~ (Original) The process as defined in claim 1 wherein said microorganism is an intact microorganism, and further comprising isolating said compound of Formula I by extraction of said mixture with an organic solvent, and subjecting said extraction to chromatography.

20.-24. (Cancelled)